

March 7, 2012

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. No. 83 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

I support S.B. 83 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

I think people in general that haven't been shown how to hunt, or haven't been exposed to it...have a negative image of it, because they are uninformed...as I said, hunters are not bad people. We are your next door neighbors, farmers, engineers, doctors, firemen, police officers.

Hunters care about the environment, and conservation, hunters know the difference between a domesticated pet/animal, and a wild free ranging animal.....there is a difference!

Hunters don't take pleasure in the kill, in fact all hunters I know, it is their goal to not injure the animal, it will typically put a hunters stomach in knots if they don't recover an animal. Hunters take pleasure in the hunt...if I go out and I don't get anything that day, it's not a big deal, I take in everything that God has gave us from the great outdoors...It's amazing to watch the woods wake up in the morning! If you're not a hunter I'm not sure you can appreciate what really happens when the sun begins to rise and shine it's light in the woods. I've personally had birds land on my arrow while sitting in a tree stand, I've had a red tailed hawk just a few feet from me in a tree, I've seen raccoons, fox, bobcats, martins, fishercats, and all kinds of wildlife up close while hunting, I got to take in all those beautiful animals up close....seeing those things make the hunt....it's not just about killing a deer.

Hunting is work, it takes a lot to fool one of the smartest, keen of senses animals out there, remember the woods is where they live 24/7 they know it better than we do...so when we are able to defeat it's senses...it is quite an accomplishment....hunters respect the animals we kill, we take the time to take care of the fruits of our labor to enable us to fill our freezers with our bounty...knowing the hard work we put in to harvest this food for our table was worth all the effort!

The USDA estimates that in 2000, 10.5 million U.S. households (or approximately one in ten) were food-insecure i.e., they didn't reliably have enough food to meet their basic needs. About 33 million people lived in these households. About 22 percent of all children were living in poverty, and many seniors were also food-insecure.

Since The Hunters for the Hungry program began in 1991, hunters have donated more than three million pounds of venison....one thing I think you can call hunters.....generous!!

While hunting may not appeal to everyone, it is my hope here that some people became educated and understand why hunters hunt....all we are asking for is a little respect...our forefathers that cleared this land, used to hunt and trap, they would trade pelts and meat they obtained by hunting and trapping for goods to provide for their families, we are simply continuing that heritage.

I look forward to taking my 11 year old daughter to the firearms safety course, and being there with her when she harvests her first deer...something that she WANTS to do, she understands the food chain, and how in order for the animals to be healthy they have to be kept at a healthy level, if they increase above the carrying capacity of their range, they will then begin to starve from lack of browse, and could potentially infect the entire herd with disease, which could effective wipe out the entire herd.

Through the purchase of hunting equipment, and license and tags, the money generated from that go into the Pittman-Robinson Fund..Although Pittman-Robertson is financed wholly by firearms users and archery enthusiasts, its benefits cover a much larger number of people who never hunt but do enjoy such wildlife pastimes as bird watching, nature photography, painting and sketching, and a wide variety of other outdoor pursuits.

Once again without hunters where is this funding going to come from so that not only the hunters can benefit, but the non-hunting community as well??

Hunters are not barbaric, dangerous, inept or trigger-happy...

People who say there's no need to kill animals for meat when it can be bought in a grocery store don't understand how food happens: It doesn't matter if someone eats venison or beef, an animal had to die first. The animal doesn't care whether you pay someone else to kill it or you do it yourself.

So you say vegetarians don't kill animals. Or do they? Most vegetable production is done at the expense of wild creatures, either by converting wildlife habitat to cropland or requiring the application of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Soybeans and corn, for example, are often grown on wetlands that have been drained and plowed. Without a place to nest, a hen mallard doesn't die, but she doesn't raise any young, either.

So you see it's easy for you to claim you don't have any blood on your hands, but in fact we all do, it's just a matter of whether you choose to admit it or not!

How about charging all the horseback riders, bird watchers, and leaf-peepers a charge to use the land like all the outdoorsmen, and women who hunt and fish..After all if they want to enjoy the great outdoors as I do, then shouldn't they have to pay a price as well??

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